



The Secret of Ka

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One minute Sara's bored on vacation in Istanbul. The next, she's unearthed a flying carpet that cleverly drags her to the mysterious Island of the Djinn—or genies. By her side is Amesh, a hot boy she's starting to love but doesn't yet trust. When Amesh learns the secret of invoking djinn, he loses control. He swears he'll call upon only one djinn and make one wish. The plan sounds safe enough. But neither Sara nor Amesh are any match for the formidable monster that that swells before them. It hypnotizes Amesh, compelling him to steal Sara's flying carpet—the ancient Carpet of Ka—and leave her stranded.

Discovering the Carpet of Ka has sparked a new path for Sara, one that will lead her to battle creatures even deadlier than djinn. In this fight, Sara can save mankind, herself, *or* the boy she loves. Who will she be forced to sacrifice?

The Secret of Ka Details

Date : Published September 13th 2010 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 2010)

ISBN : 9780547342474

Author : Christopher Pike

Format : Hardcover 407 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Young Adult, Magic, Paranormal

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From Reader Review The Secret of Ka for online ebook

J.Elle says

[Sara is staying with her father in Istanbul for the summer when she finds a magic, flying carpet. Also, she meets a one-armed boy, Amesh, who works at her father's job site and whom, you are supposed to believe she falls irrevocably in love with, despite the fact that he summons an evil djinn and leaves h

Bookworm007 says

I had to painfully peel myself away from this book several times throughout the course of reading it. Literally, this is that good of a book. In fact, it's the best original teen book I've read in a very long time. And that's saying something.

The thing I loved most about this book was the fact that the magic world discovered by Sara didn't only involve her, but also many other people who, at first, didn't seem important. I also loved the fact that minor information that happened before the setting of the story, such as Sara's "Aunt Tracy"'s death, were actually IMPORTANT information.

Towards the climax, I was prepared to give this book a 5-star rating. But upon finishing it, my score decreased to a 4.5. Perhaps there will be a sequel in the future, (actually, there had BETTER BE ONE!), because the book totally felt unfinished. The bad guys, for one, were still "out there", and many of Sara's questions to her mother were left unanswered.

I hope there will be another book that continues Sara and Amesh's adventure in the magical world of the djinn.

It's too good a story line for only one book; it needs to expand into a series!!

Cait says

I found THE SECRET OF KA to be fairly different from other Pike books. With the idea of genies and magic carpets, it's much more fantasy than horror/thriller; but I liked it just as much. Sara's a pretty interesting character. At first, I wasn't quite sure what to think of her. She's this headstrong, get what she wants type girl, who's a tiny bit bratty. As the story progresses and Sara comes into possession of the Carpet of Ka, her entire character begins to change. She realizes there are bigger forces at work in the universe than she ever thought, and she has a destiny that she isn't sure she wants. Her whole life gets flipped upside down and inside out, and she handles it about as well as can be expected. But Amesh. I did not like him, at all. He did nothing but cause Sara trouble, and yet she loves him and gives him more than enough second chances. Yes, I can see that he had a difficult life and of course he wants revenge. But to be so weak as to let that overpower everything to the point that you put everyone in danger? Nu-uh, no thank you. Hopefully his character gets explored more in any sequels that might pop up and help redeem him to me.

Once I got involved in the story, I couldn't put it down. Pike's writing style has always dragged me in and kept me captivated, and THE SECRET OF KA is no exception. But it was when I reached the end of the book, and talk of time travel and other worlds appeared that I smiled in satisfaction. Very reminiscent of the STARLIGHT CRYSTAL, the end of the book is when things start really getting good, and of course Pike leaves us wanting more. With more questions than explanations, I was at once both satisfied and crying for

more explanation. I'm highly looking forward to any sequels, and my love of Christopher Pike books has in no way diminished – just been reinforced.

Liz says

A story of an American girl who while visiting in Turkey with her father falls in love with a local boy, discovers a flying carpet that takes her to an island inhabited with djinns (genies), and must prevent a war between three mystical races from starting up once again. An enjoyable novel somewhat but I found the two main characters to lack real personality. They are typical teenagers: selfish, hotheaded, and stubborn. Because of this I felt no chemistry between them and their love to be artificial, as if they were thrown together simply because the author felt that there needed to be some sort of romantic interest for the young girl. If you ignore that, you will see what else the novel provides; thrilling action sequences, great detail into the mythology of the djinns, and true potential for this to be a fairly decent series....so long as Pike gets off his ass and develops the characters a little more thoroughly.

Targeted towards teens but I must disagree with that and say that I think the 10-13 year olds would get more of a kick out of it than the older teens. Anyone older would realize how demented these characters are, the younger crowd wouldn't know any better. No real swearing other than the word 'hell' popping up here and there and the violence is not detailed.

Rachel says

This is a Christopher Pike book without any of the charms of a Christopher Pike book—which is to say that no one is a secret snake person at all.

Brenda says

So, I spent a good portion of my teenage years reading Christopher Pike. Probably, at the time, he was my favorite author. I haven't gone back to read any of the same books to see how they stood the test of time. I suspect the writing quality is about the same now as it was then. Easy, entertaining reading that will appeal to teens.

The story here was different than most of the other YA fantasy that's on the market right now. There wasn't a love triangle in sight, thank goodness. The problem was that I found the romance completely unbelievable, and almost annoying at times. It was possibly because I found Amesh to be an entirely unlikable character, with almost no redeeming qualities. He is selfish, rude, jealous . . . and that's before he is badly influenced by a djinn. I just can't understand how or why Sara falls in love with him, except that she thinks he's attractive, which is so annoyingly shallow I just can't get behind a romance like that.

Sara was an interesting character--definitely not my favorite, and not one that I would want to be friends with in real life, but she's a fairly strong female character, which is nice because that can be so rare in YA these days. This wasn't the best written story, but it was entertaining enough that I wanted to keep reading to find out what happened, and the end, which I assume was the set-up for another book, was pretty intense and enough to make me pick up the next one. It was a bit too abrupt and cliff-hangery for me, but that's the

norm--it's rare to find a standalone novel anymore.

I would recommend this to fans of YA fantasy. Just don't go in with your expectations too high. Now I want to go back and re-read some of my old teen book loves by Pike, and see how they compare.

Holly Botello says

loved it!! It pulled me in after the 5th page. Pike has a special way of introducing history and cultural facts into his books. It was such a pleasure read this book I felt drawn in and given the ability to fly and feel the magic, he woven into this book.

Mjhancock says

With this book, I have now been reading Christopher Pike books for fifteen years. Back then, he was writing YA supernatural horror with a heavy emphasis on romance (see: The Remember Me trilogy). Now, it's more fantasy than horror, but the rest stays largely the same. But for the most part, that's a good thing. The plot of the story is that Sara Wilcox, fifteen year old American girl, is vacationing in Istanbul while her father works. A few random misadventures, and she's teaming up with hot (sigh--this would be the peril of a late twenties male still reading YA these days) local boy to discover the origin of a magic carpet she finds on her father's dig site. But the boy--Amesh--has his own ideas on the rightful use of said artifact, and moral ambiguity enters quickly. From there, the book delves into ancient wars, djinns, and Sara's discovery that she and those she cares about are very different from whom she thought they were. In a book with this sort of plot, the cultural appropriation can either be the elephant in the room, or a driving force, and Pike expertly navigates the latter course. The power relation between Amesh and Sara in terms of economic status, nationality, and gender is understated but well developed, especially in the earlier sections of the book. The mythology and magic rules of the Middle East are also treated with respect. In a YA book, the development of the main character is an essential feature, and Sara progresses from a nice but sort of spoiled girl to a confident, kind person. There's a heel turn of one of the main characters near the end that seemed so tonally off that it soured the ending of the book considerably for me, but in general, it's a good, breezy fantasy story.

Nurshafiq says

i have been a fan of christopher pike since about two years ago. back then, i was still in secondary school. i can still remember the first time i held a pike book in the school's library, kind of wary because of the lame cover. read it and was immediately hooked. so was some of my friends. we made it a kind of mission to read all the pike books in our school's library, and we did. in a few months.

so imagine my surprise when i saw this book in the national library! i got so excited i think i jump around a little. here was another pike book, right in front of me, all glossy and new. without any hesitation, i borrowed a friend's library card (since i've used up the 12-books limit) and went home smiling.

i was so so so disappointed.

mr. christopher pike, please do your research before publishing a book. muslims don't pray in the toilet, what

more a bathtub?! oh and if amesh was that much of a good muslim, like he wouldn't look at sara properly just because of her wearing a tank top and shorts and was even shy to use her freaking hotel room's bathroom, he wouldn't do half the things he did! there was just so many inconsistencies, i couldn't bother listing them all. it's like, amesh's religion, islam, is SUCH a huge part of who he is. it's kind of distracting to the story. (oh who am i kidding, it is!)

basically, there were a lot of moments when i think, "what the eff?" while reading this book. but hey, whatever right? just a story. gimme a break!

but it wasn't all bad. it was okay if you read it without thinking too much. but ugh i practically skimmed this book just cause it was so boring. i have been let down big time. thanks a lot, mr. pike!

PS: giving 2 stars only because all those pike books i've read before have given me so much pleasure.

Morgan says

Looking for a souvenir to bring home from your summer trip to Istanbul? How about a lovely flying carpet? That's what Sara manages to dig up when she visits her father at the construction site for a new hydroelectric plant his company is building. Before Sara knows it, she and Amesh, the cute boy she just met, are whisked away to a mysterious island. Once there they bite off more than they can chew when Amesh unleashes a malevolent wish granting djinn and refuses to put him "back in the bottle." Now Sara has to unlock the secrets of her unknown lineage in order to rescue Amesh from making a third wish and losing his soul to the genie. The characters of Sara and Amesh are flat, lacking even the most superficial character development and worst of all they're whiney and annoying. This book is full of ridiculous cultural stereotypes (both American and "foreign"), factual inaccuracies, and plot holes big enough to fly a magic carpet through.

Jaime says

Christopher Pike and I go back a long ways. When I was in junior high and high school, I was obsessed with his books, counting his Final Friends series, Chain Letter, and Gimme a Kiss amongst my favorite books. Every time I was able to visit the Mr. Paperback a half hour from my house, I would go straight to the Young Adult section and hope for a new Christopher Pike book, anxious to fork over my \$3.95. I owned every book he published. So it's not surprising that I was excited to see this new book as a galley offered through NetGalley.

Unfortunately, I found myself disappointed in this. But I think my disappointment stems more from the book being mis-categorized than with the story itself. This really didn't have the sophistication that I remember from the thrillers he wrote in the 80s and 90s. I think it would be better marketed as a middle-grade book rather than a young adult book. I can see 10-13 year-olds reading this, but not 16-18 year-olds.

As far as the story goes, I don't have too many major complaints, but I don't have any major kudos either. It just left me feeling "eh". Our main characters, Sara and Amesh, really aren't that compelling. They both come off as shallow and selfish and immature, and inconsistent. And whatever spark we're supposed to feel between them just wasn't believable. To me, it seemed like Sara didn't really care about him — liking him was just a way to get attention. I thought the mythology of the djinn was interesting, since I haven't read

many (if any) books with that as a basis. Istanbul started out as an interesting locale, but he could have gone further with it. I've been to Istanbul, and this story didn't recall the feelings I hoped for. I would have loved to see more of a description of the city, with its mosques and palaces and bazaars and variety of people, and a flying carpet could have given us a really unique perspective. Instead, the story started to feel like it could have taken place anywhere. The plot gets a little out of control with its twists and turns and double-crosses, but things are mostly wrapped up at the end. I suspect there will be a sequel, at least.

Rhiannon Ryder says

Like so many others I was a great fan of Christopher Pike growing up. His teen thrillers were positively iconic, and I'm thrilled to see he's still going strong (his thirst series is a New York Times Bestseller), but even more excited to see he's branching into a slightly younger audience.

The Secret of Ka follows Sara on her bored ramblings through Turkey while her father spends all day everyday ensconced on a work site she's not allowed to visit. Until, that is, she discovers the Magic Carpet of Ka. At which point everything changes, possibly for the worst, and Sara's world quickly comes tumbling down. Between her new friend Amesh's problems with a seriously bad news Dijinn, her own tricky relationship with a powerful Dijinn and the voice of the carpet trying to guide her it'll be a miracle if everyone survives.

To be honest I found the narration a bit stiff. From a first point perspective of a 15 year old I expected a little more personality, but there are some strangely formal paragraphs, which isn't something I remember being a problem with Christopher Pike. But what the narration lacked the story made up for. Fast paced and very engrossing Sara's enormous mis-adventure through Turkey and beyond had me flipping pages fast.

The story is original enough to seem fresh and different while at the same time referencing historical myth that most people will feel at home with. Aladdin anyone? I'm not sure that it painted Turkey in the best possible light but then writing about it from a white Americans perspective might be tricky. In any case the country was just a bit player in a mostly mythical tale.

I was surprised to find the ending was definitely an open ended thing suggesting this was just the beginning of a series. I perused online but couldn't find any mention of a planned second book, but I'm assuming there is one being written in the wings possibly as I type this review. I'm intrigued to see where this story is headed, it has distinct possibilities of being a very fun series.

Phil Ansell says

I am a massive fan of Pike's books, both the adult and teen ones and cannot recommend them enough. However in my opinion The Secret of Ka is the worst one I've read. The idea for the story has so much potential and could be a great read but the execution of the book seems shallow and rushed with no real depth.

I think the main problem, other than the inaccuracies about Turkey and Turkish people (as discussed in many

other reviews), are the two main characters and their relationship.

Sara is not a very likeable character, she's rude and very shallow. And Amesh is so dislikeable from the first moment you meet him that I found it very difficult to care what happened to him throughout the story, in fact the whole way through I was really hoping for something fatal to happen to him. The relationship between the two seemed forced and very unrealistic, one second they were fighting and the next they were in love. It came across very childishly written. Neither character showed any vulnerability that I felt I could connect with and make me care about them. And I feel that because of these unbelievable and unlike-able characters the whole book suffered and you couldn't get swept away into the story which usually happens when I read a Pike book.

Overall not a great book, but if your a Pike fan you may want to give it a read. Although be warned that your high opinion of Pike as an author may change after reading it.

Lydia Presley says

I don't know about you, but I've been in love with magic carpets since I first heard the story of Aladdin, then Disney went and made a movie about it and cast a totally cute animated character in the role and a beautiful princess and the hook sunk even deeper in.

So when I came across The Secret of Ka on NetGalley I jumped at the opportunity to read it. But let me warn you - I know I received an uncorrected e-galley of this book and am not sure if the book was deliberately typed up like I received or if it is something that will be changed... but the capitalization of things was all off and the beginning of chapters made me feel as if a teenager was writing the story and trying to be cool. wRiTIng lIkE tHiS doesn't impress me, nor does not capitalizing the "I" when referring to yourself and capitalizing only some of the names. But again - I don't know if this is intended, just something that really bugged me in this copy of the book.

Other than that the book really was fantastic. I was worried about the story being corny... I mean, we're talking genies and magic carpets here. However the story unfolded in a very cool way - with the carpet being used as a specific item and the passage of time moving in a different way on the island of the djinn.

I thoroughly enjoyed the warfare lore mixed in and the touch of romance - it was nice to see another strong female character determined to save the boy in this case and a refreshing change of pace for me.

The cover of the book is beautiful and the story is a fascinating one. There were a few other issues which I'm sure editing will take care of.. but once this book is released I would highly recommend for those seeking a different sort of fantasy adventure.

Connie says

I feel the need to point out that this book begins with a number of MAJOR factual errors, as listed here on Amazon.

As a short sampling, let's just point out that Turkey is a modern, secular Mediterranean nation where women do not habitually wear veils (indeed, the proposal to allow women in university to wear headscarves was

considered shocking! ATM, the requirement is that they attend bareheaded). There is no desert in or near Istanbul - in fact, Istanbul (which is NOT the capital of Turkey!) is on the water. And the list goes on - you'll note that the linked reviewer stopped reading after 30 pages or so.

These are very basic errors that could've been caught with nothing so much as a google search. The fact that the author did not consider it important to get these facts right is appalling.

It is not necessary for every fact in every book to be correct, people will make mistakes. However, it is insulting to read a book and find out that the author did not bother to do even the smallest amount of research. It's like opening a book and finding it full of typos. A few is okay, these things happen, but for the first page to be rittin lyk this becuz nobode tawt the arthur too speel? That's not good.
